VIDEO LESSON WORKBOOK · INTERMEDIATE (B1–B2)

A Tip in Every Country

Polite here, rude there. Use this workbook while you watch the video, then try the extra practice. Answers and model answers are at the back.

Watch the lesson
englishwithchris.com/lessons/a-tip-in-every-country

1 Watch
Pause when you see the pause sign and answer out loud.

2 Write
Use these pages to note your answers.

3 Go further
Do the extra practice and check the answer key.

A Warm-up ▸ IN THE VIDEO

Answer each question out loud. Then write a short answer.

1. **Do people usually leave tips where you live?**

2. **Have you ever felt unsure about tipping on a trip?**

3. **What's the best way to thank someone for good service?**

B Vocabulary preview ▸ IN THE VIDEO

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter.

1	**seasoned**	____	A	the usual or expected way of doing things
2	**vary widely**	____	B	need something in order to live or work well
3	**the norm**	____	C	having a lot of experience in something
4	**rely on**	____	D	annoyed because you can't change a situation
5	**frustrated**	____	E	be very different from one case to another

6	**round up**	____	A	an extra fee added to a restaurant bill for staff
7	**service charge**	____	B	rude in a way that may offend someone
8	**turn down**	____	C	a way of dealing with something
9	**disrespectful**	____	D	raise an amount to the next whole number
10	**approach**	____	E	say no to an offer or a gift

READING ▸ IN THE VIDEO

A Tip in Every Country

Polite here, rude there

1 Picture yourself on vacation after enjoying a delicious meal. When the bill comes, you might wonder if you should leave a tip, and if so, how much. Even **seasoned** travelers can be surprised by these questions, since tipping customs **vary widely** around the world. What's normal in one country might be unusual in another.

2 In the United States, tipping is **the norm** in restaurants. Most people leave about 20%, and servers **rely on** these tips because their base pay can be as low as $2.13 an hour. Lately, tip requests have appeared at coffee shops and takeout counters too, leaving many Americans **frustrated**.

3 If you travel to Europe, you'll notice things are different. In many countries there, large tips aren't expected. Usually, just leaving some coins or **rounding up** the bill is fine. In London, check your receipt because many restaurants include a **service charge** that covers the tip. In Mexico, tipping is expected, and leaving 10 to 20% is normal.

4 Some countries see tipping very differently. In Japan, China, and South Korea, tipping isn't expected, and workers might politely **turn down** your money. Giving a tip in these places can seem odd or even **disrespectful**. Instead, people show their thanks with a warm thank-you or by returning as a customer.

5 So, which **approach** works best? Some people believe tipping rewards workers for great service, while others think pay shouldn't depend on a customer's mood. For travelers, it's wise to learn about local customs before a trip. If you're unsure, ask someone who lives there. What's the tipping custom in your country?

For each paragraph

1. Listen to Chris read.
2. Pause and read it yourself, out loud.
3. Rewind and read along.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Comprehension

Choose the best answer. Questions 1, 2 and 3 are in the video. Questions 4 and 5 are extra.

1 **Before tipping in London, what does the reading say you should check?**

▸ IN THE VIDEO

(a) The tip jar near the door
(b) Your receipt, for a service charge
(c) The server's name tag
(d) The menu prices

2 **What can you infer about US servers who don't get tips?**

▸ IN THE VIDEO

(a) They still earn a high hourly wage
(b) Their manager adds a service charge
(c) Customers pay them back later
(d) They may struggle to earn enough money

3 **What is the main idea of the reading?**

▸ IN THE VIDEO

(a) Tipping rules change from country to country
(b) Americans tip more than anyone else
(c) Tipping should be banned everywhere
(d) Travelers should always leave 20%

4 **In P4, workers might politely "turn down" your money. What does this mean?**

WORKBOOK ONLY

(a) Count it carefully
(b) Give it to a manager
(c) Say no to it
(d) Put it in a tip jar

5 **Why does the writer end with "What's the tipping custom in your country?"** WORKBOOK ONLY

(a) To test the reader's memory
(b) To invite readers to compare with their own country
(c) To show the US system is best
(d) To introduce a new topic

WORKBOOK ONLY

Vocabulary review

A Write the word

Which word from the vocabulary preview does each sentence describe?

#	SENTENCE	WORD
1	My aunt has visited over 30 countries and always knows what to do at the airport.	
2	The price of a coffee can be very different from one city to the next.	
3	In my family, it's usual for everyone to eat dinner together on Sundays.	
4	The taxi fare was $18.60, so I paid $19 and told the driver to keep the change.	
5	My friend offered me a ride home, but I said "No, thanks" because I wanted to walk.	
6	I felt annoyed when the café's card machine stopped working for the third time.	

B Closest meaning

Choose the word or phrase closest in meaning to the underlined word.

1 Many students **rely on** their phones to find their way around a new city.

a) forget b) depend on c) pay for

2 Talking loudly on the phone in a quiet train can seem **disrespectful**.

a) rude b) brave c) normal

3 The hotel added a **service charge** of 10% to our bill.

a) a small discount b) a free gift c) an extra fee

4 My brother has a relaxed **approach** to planning trips.

a) way of doing things b) reason for traveling c) list of places

SPEAKING & WRITING

Discussion

Answer out loud first. Give a reason and an example. Then write a few notes, and share your favorite answer in the video comments.

1. **Do you think tipping is a good way to pay for service? Why or why not?**
   ▸ IN THE VIDEO

2. **Have you ever been surprised by a custom on a trip? What happened?**
   ▸ IN THE VIDEO

3. **Should tip screens appear at coffee shops and takeout counters? Why or why not?**

4. **How would you explain the tipping customs in your country to a visitor?**

5. **Is it better to tip a fixed percentage or based on the service you get?**

Useful language

GIVING AN OPINION
I'd say… · In my opinion… · I tend to think…

COMPARING CUSTOMS
Where I'm from… · In my country, it's normal to… · That would seem odd here.

TALKING ABOUT A TRIP
When I was in… · I didn't expect… · What surprised me was…

COMMENT CHALLENGE

Teach us the tipping rule in your country in **one sentence**. Start with **"In my country, …"** Then tell us the most surprising tipping moment you've had on a trip.

BONUS PRACTICE

Go further

1 Phrases for paying and tipping

Complete each sentence with a word or phrase from the box. Use each one once.

leave a tip | keep the change | split the bill | pay by card | ask for the check | a big tipper

1. The service was great, so we decided to ____ of 20%.
2. The fare was $14. I gave the driver $15 and said, "____."
3. There were six of us at dinner, so we agreed to ____ equally.
4. The café doesn't take cash anymore, so you have to ____.
5. When we finished dessert, I waved to the server to ____.
6. My uncle always leaves 30%, so the staff at his favorite diner know him as ____.

2 Writing: Tipping where you live

Write 120–150 words. Explain the tipping customs in your country to a visitor. Where do people tip, how much do they leave, and where is a tip not expected? Use at least four words from today's vocabulary.

3 Speaking: record yourself

Record yourself reading Paragraph 3 (Europe and Mexico) out loud. Then play the video and compare. Listen for how I link the words in **rounding up** and **service charge**, and how many words I group together before each pause. Try it twice and keep your better take.

CHECK YOUR WORK

Answer key

Vocabulary preview

1 C · 2 E · 3 A · 4 B · 5 D
6 D · 7 A · 8 E · 9 B · 10 C

Comprehension

1 b · 2 d · 3 a · 4 c · 5 b

Vocabulary review A

1 seasoned · 2 vary widely · 3 the norm · 4 round up · 5 turn down · 6 frustrated

Vocabulary review B

1 b · 2 a · 3 c · 4 a

Phrases for paying and tipping

1 leave a tip · 2 Keep the change · 3 split the bill · 4 pay by card · 5 ask for the check · 6 a big tipper

Why these answers?

- **Comprehension 1:** P3 says many London restaurants include a service charge that covers the tip.
- **Comprehension 2:** P2 says servers rely on tips because their base pay can be as low as $2.13 an hour.
- **Comprehension 3:** P1 says tipping customs vary widely, and each paragraph shows a different place.
- **Comprehension 4:** P4 says tipping isn't expected there, so workers may refuse the money.
- **Comprehension 5:** P5 ends by asking readers to think about the custom where they live.

COMPARE YOUR ANSWERS

Model answers

These are examples, not the only correct answers. Notice the phrases that give reasons and examples.

Warm-up

Not really

Not really. Where I live, most restaurants add a small service charge, so people don't think about tipping much. If the service is great, I might round up the bill or leave a few coins, but nobody expects 20%.

Confused in New York

Yes, on my first trip to New York. I bought a coffee, and the screen asked me for a tip. I had no idea what the norm was, so I just pressed the middle button. Later I learned that tipping for coffee is optional.

Kind words count

For me, a sincere thank-you matters a lot. I like to tell the person they did a great job, or I write a nice online review. Money is nice too, of course, but kind words can make someone's whole day.

Discussion

Not the best system

Honestly, I don't think it's the best system. I like rewarding great service, but a worker's pay shouldn't depend on a customer's mood. I'd rather see fair wages and clear prices. Then a tip could be a small extra for someone who does a really great job.

The coins came back

Yes! On a trip to Japan, I left some coins on the table after lunch. The server ran after me to give them back. She politely turned down the money, and I felt a little embarrassed. Now I always read about local customs before I travel.

Only for real service

I don't think so. When I order a coffee to go, the barista is doing a great job, but it's not table service. Seeing a tip screen there makes me feel a bit frustrated. I'd rather tip when someone serves me at a table or helps me in a special way.

Just round it up

I'd tell them not to worry too much. In my country, tipping isn't really the norm. In restaurants, most people just round up the bill or leave a few coins. In taxis, nobody expects a tip. The most important thing is to say thank you and smile.

It depends on the service

I prefer tipping based on the service. If a server is friendly and helpful, I'm happy to leave more. If the service is slow or rude, I leave less. A fixed percentage is easier, but I think it takes away the whole point of a tip.

Writing: Tipping where you live

If you visit my country, don't worry too much about tipping. It isn't really the norm here, and customs vary widely from place to place. In most restaurants, a service charge is already on the bill, so you don't need to add anything. Many people just round up the total or leave a few coins if they're happy with the meal. In taxis, nobody expects a tip, and some drivers might even turn down extra money. Hotels are a little different. Leaving a small amount for housekeeping is a kind gesture, but it's not required. Even seasoned travelers sometimes feel unsure, so my advice is simple: if you're not sure, just ask the staff or a local. A warm smile and a sincere thank-you are always welcome here.